

Yorke Peninsula Trial Shellfish Reef

The Yorke Peninsula Trial Shellfish Reef aims to restore shellfish reef habitat in the region, providing new habitat for marine life and helping to enhance recreational fishing experiences in the region.

The Yorke Peninsula Trial Shellfish Reef will be built in two phases. Phase 1 will commence in June 2017 and construction of a trial shellfish reef of up to four hectares. Phase two will be completed by the end of 2018 with up to 20 hectares of shellfish reef expansion

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHASE 1 TRIAL REEF

Port Adelaide based Maritime Construction has been awarded the contract to build South Australia's first trial shellfish reef.

Construction of the trial four-hectare shellfish reef will begin in May using:

- Approximately 850 tonnes of locally sourced limestone from the Yorke Peninsula
- 60 custom made concrete reef structures made up of a number of different designs

How long will construction take?

Construction of the reef is expected to take between 1-2 months and be complete by mid-year, weather conditions permitting.

The local community will begin to see the deployment vessel 'MV Andrew Wilson' in place at the reef site in the coming weeks, with construction getting underway around the start of June 2017.



MV Andrew Wilson Construction Vessel

What considerations do recreational, commercial and charter fishers need to be aware of during construction of the reef?

Recreational, commercial and charter fishers should steer clear of the construction site while the process of building the reef is underway. Maritime Constructions will have day marks and marker buoys on anchors displayed - it is recommended that a minimum distance of 250m be kept from the markers throughout the deployment phase.

When will the reef be open to recreational fishers?

The four-hectare trial reef is expected to open to recreational fishers later in 2017, following some initial restrictions to ensure the reef and native oyster spat settles in. Fishers are encouraged to drift fish across the reef and to limit anchoring within the area to ensure damage to the reef doesn't occur.

Will the reef be open to commercial fishers?

There will be no commercial fishing access to four-hectare trial shellfish reef.



Image above: Paddock picked limestone from Redding Crushing Yorke Peninsula prior to cleaning for deployment.



Image above: Location of the trial shellfish reef site off Rogues Point.

Why is shellfish reef restoration important?

Globally 85% of shellfish reefs have been lost from coastal areas, with a loss of 99% of shellfish reefs from Australia's coastal waters. Historically, shellfish reefs were prevalent in the Yorke Peninsula region.

Shellfish reefs made up of oysters and mussels provide important food and habitat for marine life. Working like coral reefs, they support the growth of important fish species like Snapper and King George Whiting while also helping to improve water quality, reduce coastal erosion and increase biodiversity.

For more information: www.pir.sa.gov.au/habitatenhancement